

JOHN J. HOFFMAN
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the State Board of Nursing

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	
	:	
EDITHA IVIN M. LACSAMANA, R.N.	:	
License # 26NR12548600	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Editha Ivin M. Lacsamana ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about May 19, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. Respondent was also asked whether she completed the one hour course on Organ and Tissue Donation. Respondent answered "yes" to both questions and certified the answers by submitting the online application.

3. By letter dated October 24, 2014, Respondent was asked to provide proof of having completed required continuing education from her last biennial renewal period from June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014.

4. By letter dated November 17, 2014, Respondent provided a response to the Board's letter, but failed to address or mention the issue of continuing education and failed to provide any proof of completion of continuing education. As

Respondent's reply did not pertain to continuing education at all, it is not attached as an exhibit.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

DISCUSSION

A Provisional Order of Discipline (POD) was filed on September 2, 2015 based upon Ms. Lacsamana's failure to complete and provide documentation of continuing education. The POD seeks a reprimand, \$250 civil penalty, and a suspension until Ms. Lacsamana demonstrates completion of all required continuing education to date.

Ms. Lacsamana responded to the POD and provided proof of completion of the following continuing education:

More than 45 hours within June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 (which allows her to carry over a maximum of 15 excess hours to the next biennial period); and

16.25 hours within June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 (including the 15 hours carried over).

Ms. Lacsamana maintains that prior to her May 2014 renewal she did her continuing education a few months ahead of time but she has failed to provide any documentation thereof. The only documentation submitted for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period is 1.25 hours. Ms. Lacsamana completed over 100 hours in the biennial period of June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012, but may only carry over a maximum of 15 hours. She is still short 13.75 hours for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period.

The Board determined that the submitted materials warrant modification of the POD. Ms. Lacsamana should not be suspended but will be required to complete an additional 13.75 hours including the Organ and Tissue Donation Course within three (3) months of the filing of this Final Order of Discipline. The hours will be attributed to the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period and may not be used to satisfy the current renewal cycle. Additionally, the Board determined to impose the reprimand for the false answer on Respondent's 2014 renewal application and a \$250 civil penalty for failing to timely complete required continuing education.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 28th day of April, 2016,
ORDERED that:

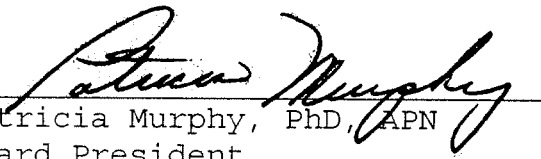
1. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of completion within three (3) months of the filing of this Final Order of Discipline of 13.75 hours of continuing education, including the Organ and Tissue Donation course.

2. Continuing education hours taken currently and applied to cure the deficiency from the previous biennial period shall not be used to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period.

3. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for falsifying the continuing education information on her license renewal application.

4. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to Leslie Burgos, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of this **Final Order of Discipline**. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: 
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President